

Tynninghame Village Hall and Community Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm in
Tynninghame Village Hall

1. Ian welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Present:

Ian Staples (IS)
John Crowther (JC)
Tim Harper (TH)
Carol Crowther (CC)
Sophie Wild (SW)
Rob Hyndman (RH)
Danny Wight (DW)
Eric Martin (EM)

Jenni Vernon was in attendance as an observer.

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Adam Stockwell.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November, 2025, were approved by Rob and Carol.

Matters Arising:

a. **Online presence**

Sophie gave an update on the Hall's website traffic for the past 3 months - there were 90 visitors in February so far, 231 visitors in January and 277 visitors in December, 2024. We have 28 followers on Facebook. (SW)

The Committee agreed to pay a donation to Sustaining Dunbar to completely renew the website. It was estimated that the work would take 2 to 3 days. It was unclear how much this donation would be, but it was thought that it would not be a huge sum. (SW)

b. **Working groups and community ownership of communal areas**

There hadn't been any progress with this and it was unclear what its original purpose was. John reminded the meeting that it had been agreed at the previous meeting that, as a first step, it would be important to know which pieces of land were owned by the Estate and the pieces of land owned by residents. Ian and Sophie would discuss to determine where we're going with this. (IS,SW)

c. Tynninghame community heat project

Sophie reported that the feasibility study had now been carried out and that the results were awaited - these were expected shortly, before the end of the financial year. Sophie had met with Martin from East Lothian Council and Georgina Weston from Galbraith, the Haddington Estate's representative - Lord Haddington was interested in the heat project. There was some discussion on the new government legislation on the required standards for the rental of properties. The legislation had been delayed - for this reason, it was thought that the Estate, although interested, may not wish to fully commit to expenditure on its properties at this time.

Sophie advised the meeting that East Lothian residents groups had asked to be informed of the result of the feasibility study. Apparently Tynninghame is the front runner on this in East Lothian.

The subgroup, consisting of Ian, Sophie and Danny + Nigel Schofield and Andrew Jones (village residents), would meet shortly to discuss matters further - a time would need to be agreed. (SW, IS, DW)

3. Hall management:

a. Hall Handbook

Carol reported that she had updated the Handbook and this could now be viewed on Dropbox - she invited members to look at the Handbook and offer any suggestions of changes to this. (CC, ALL)

b. Hall Governance

Carol had read the SCVO guidance on managing village halls and creating village handbooks. Having completed the short self assessment, some improvement of our handbook was indicated and, particularly, the leadership section needed tightening up. She hoped that improvements to this document could be made before the AGM on 11th April, 2025. (CC)

c. Hall bookings/invoicing/pricing/ Hallmaster system update

Carol, Ian and Sophie had met on January 6th to discuss 25/26 pricing and this had now been agreed. Sophie outlined the new pricing structure. There was some discussion on changing the wording to make the meaning absolutely clear. The new pricing would be introduced in April, 2025. All regular clients would be informed of the changes. (CC,JC)

It was agreed that the Committee should be consulted if a prospective client wished to have their charitable status taken into consideration to allow a discount. It was agreed that having charitable status doesn't necessarily mean that the use of the Hall should in every case be free.

Eric reported that there had not been any further progress with Hallmaster since the last meeting. However, a new booking proforma has been agreed and should be introduced shortly. (SW)

4. Hall maintenance and improvements

a. Hall flooring replacement

Ian reported that he had received a draft quote from GL Floors following his enquiry to them on flooring replacement - two options were quoted for, one costing around £12,800 and the other at around £18,000.

It was acknowledged that the flooring was thinning in places, as reported by Andrew MacDonald, who had carried out some remedial work to the floor. It was not felt that a total replacement of flooring was required at this stage, however, it was agreed that a risk assessment should be undertaken and regularly reviewed. Rob and Carol agreed to do this. (CC,RH)

b. Painting of toilets/hall

This matter was discussed and it was agreed that we should aim to start work on this in Spring - in view of the problem of damp and mould, a heavy duty damp and mould resistant paint would be required. It was agreed that dampness and mould growth is a consequence of the poor ventilation and lack of heating in the toilet area. The installation of heaters in the toilets was discussed, but no decision was made on this at this time. (ALL)

c. Installation of a wood burning stove

Some discussion took place on the benefits of a log burning stove and the likely size/output required. It was agreed that, in the first instance, the Estate would be asked if it would agree to the installation of a stove. Local residents and the regular Hall users would then be asked for their opinion on whether to install a stove or leave the open fire as it is. An updated quote for the stove and installation work was now required. (IS)

d. Key Box

John had installed new box at the rear of the Hall.

5. Treasurer's report

Tim reported that the TVHCC have £25k in the bank and that Douglas Home and Company had now been given all the required information to prepare the accounts for the year ending 31 December, 2024.

Tim had also provided a note of the takings from the the pre christmas wreath making event, the Burns supper and the costs of the christmas party.

John informed Tim that he had received an email requesting payment for the Music Licence. Tim would deal with this. (TH)

6. Dunpender Community Council report

Danny spoke to his report. See appendix.

7. Community engagement and events update

Carol had provided a report (see appendix). However, there were several items of particular note:

- a. A request for additional support to CEG for all community activities, but specifically for children's events, had been included in the most recent Mailchimp Newsletter.
- b. Ali McGregor has now handed over the administration of the Newsletter to Sophie.
- c. It was noted that more than £100 was donated to the East Lothian Foodbank from the christmas eve carol singing.
- d. It was agreed that, in principle, planting trees in memory of people who have died, was a nice idea. In replacing the fallen trees on the lawn of village hall, several matters required to be considered, ie making the lawn safe, Gallbraith approval, health of remaining trees, and planting trees native to the area. (IS)

8. Annual assessment of trees on Estate land

This matter was revisited following receipt of an email to the Chairman and Secretary from Rhys Green. However, following further discussion, it was agreed that our decision on this remains the same, ie that this is not a responsibility that the Committee should undertake.

9. Wasps and Bats

Ian reported that he had sent an email to the Scottish branch of the Bat Conservation Trust, but had not as yet received a reply. Ian would follow this up. (IS)

10. Benches update

Work on these was underway.

11. Noticeboard

We had recently received a quote for the repair of the Noticeboard. However, this had been further damaged by a tree falling on it in the recent storm - a revised quote was now required and Ian would pursue this. (IS)

12. Any other business

- a. An email had been received from Shireen Green regarding the events calendar and the recent events page on the Website not being up to date. Also not all private events on the calendar were given a code. Sophie would address these issues. (SW)

- b. Rhys Green had informed the Chair and Secretary that the side of the hedge around the football pitch had not yet been cut. He had raised the matter with Georgina Werston who had told him that she would arrange to have it done, but this had not yet been dealt with, despite their conversation having take place a month ago. Ian informed the meeting that this matter had been dealt with.

13. Date of next meeting

To be notified.

The TVHCC AGM would take place on the 11th April, 2025.

TVHCC- Community Engagement Group (CEG)

Update for TVHCC meeting February 2025

A CEG meeting was held on 6th January and an events calendar(draft) for the first of quarter of 2025 was agreed this includes

- Regular Pub nights
- A possible wine tasting in March and
- Spring/Easter activities

In addition, a reflective discussion was had in relation to those events that had gone well and where improvements could be made. Of note was the need to have greater involvement of parents and guardians of children when planning and carrying out activities for the children. It was agreed that that a request should go out to all in advance of the February CEG meeting. A communication seeking wider support will be circulated with the February TVHCC newsletter. Ali and Sophie will take this forward when they meet to hand over the remit for the TVHCC newsletter.

Events since November 24 Hall Committee meeting:

- Three fund raising Wreath making workshops were held in November, these were hugely successful and profitable
- The TVHCC Christmas party was held on 6th December – several notes of thanks have been received following this
- Christmas Eve Carol singing- Despite moving the event to the hall and not having the harpist this was an enjoyable event with positive feedback and thanks. Whist not advertised as a fund raiser, more than £100 was donated for the East Lothian food bank. We were grateful to Dave Wakefield for providing hot drinks, cake and this year adding punch to the fayre. We supplemented Dave's contributions with cake and nibbles left over from the hall Christmas party.
- The Annual Burns night on the 25th of January was a sellout, with lots of positive feedback and several commenting that this was the best Village Burns Supper to date.

Outstanding:

- A pop-up screen has yet to be sourced/purchased.
- Purchase of a bench for the football field
- Replacement /reinstallation of Notice Boards
- Consideration of tree planting in memory of those who loved the village

Carol on behalf of CEG
February 2025

Report on Dunpender Community Council affairs relating directly to Tynninghame

10 Feb. 2025

Daniel Wight, Community Councillor

Footpaths leaflet. DW and Anne Pearson have drafted a revised walks leaflet for the East Linton area incorporating the new paths around Tynninghame. A freelance designer, Lisa Douglas of Creative Link in Haddington, is contracted to produce it, ideally in the next few months. This is being financed through DCC.

Crystal Rig Windfarm 'repowering'. This windfarm, owned by Fred Olsen, is coming to the end of its expected 25 year lifespan, although it is not clear how long the existing turbines could go on functioning. Fred Olsen plan to replace the 100m turbines with fewer much larger ones (250m), in part because the German manufacturers no longer produce the smaller ones. Overall they would not generate much more electricity since they are restricted by the size of their connection to the grid. Community councils within 10 kms of the site would benefit from community funding and DCC, at Whittinghame, is just within this distance.

Community resilience planning. The Community Council has been resisting East Lothian Council (ELC) expectations that DCC develops elaborate resilience plans when it has no resources or expertise. Examples of the Beast from the East and Covid were provided to illustrate how communities worked together informally alongside response organisations to assist those in need. It was suggested that community halls could be contacted directly by ELC to provide details of their capacity to offer accommodation and/or warm refuges in emergencies.

Road priorities for 2025. The Area Partnership have been asked what their priorities are for road spending in the coming financial year. Extension of the pavement in Tynninghame from the Main Street around the corner on to the A198 has been included, but it is unlikely to be implemented due to lack of funds.

ELC planning restrictions on double glazing. In a meeting between DCC members and the Planning Dept it became clear that the planners are still maintaining their objection to PVC double glazing being installed in conservation areas. This is despite the Scottish Government giving local authorities discretion on this issue. It was suggested that anyone wishing to install such energy-efficiency measures should challenge the ELC and DCC would support them.

Robert Noble sculpture. DCC discussed a proposal for a stone and plaque to commemorate Robert Noble, the EL artist, to be sited on the setts at the corner of Preston Road and the High Street. While there was no objection to the memorial in principal there was an objection to the proposed site as inappropriate. It was thought to obstruct an attractive open area and create potential health and safety issues.

East Fortune Family Park. An appeal against the ELC rejection of this proposal has been rejected by the Scottish Government Reporter on grounds of traffic impact and no sustainable travel option.